



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Governor's Bill No. 6663**

LCO No. 4032



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant  
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The State Board of  
2 Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of  
3 students who are English learners to guarantee that the rights of such  
4 parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the  
5 provision of bilingual education under chapter 164 of the general  
6 statutes. Such bill of rights shall include, but not be limited to, the  
7 following declarations:

8 (1) The right of an English learner student to attend a public school  
9 in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the  
10 immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

11 (2) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to  
12 enroll such student in a public school without being required to submit  
13 immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a Social  
14 Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

15 (3) The right of an English learner student to have a certified  
16 translator present during critical interactions with teachers and  
17 administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-teacher  
18 conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in which such  
19 child is attending and meetings of or with members of the board of  
20 education responsible for educating such child;

21 (4) The right of an English learner student to participate in a program  
22 of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board of education  
23 when there are twenty or more eligible students classified as dominant  
24 in a language other than English as such student, in accordance with the  
25 provisions of section 10-17f of the general statutes;

26 (5) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to  
27 receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of  
28 such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a  
29 program of bilingual education or English as a new language program  
30 offered by the local or regional board of education;

31 (6) The right of an English learner student and the parent or guardian  
32 of such student to receive a high quality orientation session, in the  
33 dominant language of such student and parent or guardian, from the  
34 local or regional board of education that provides information relating  
35 to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for English  
36 learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for programs of  
37 bilingual education and English as a new language, prior to  
38 participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a new  
39 language;

40 (7) The right of the parent or guardian of an English learner student  
41 to receive information about the progress of such student's English  
42 language development and acquisition;

43 (8) The right of an English learner student and the parent or guardian  
44 of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such student's  
45 English language development and acquisition;

46 (9) The right of an English learner student to be placed in a program  
47 of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered by the  
48 local or regional board of education;

49 (10) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to all  
50 grade-level school programming;

51 (11) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to all  
52 core grade-level subject matter;

53 (12) The right of an English learner student to receive annual  
54 language proficiency testing;

55 (13) The right of an English learner student to receive support  
56 services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school  
57 district provides to all students;

58 (14) The right of an English learner student to be continuously and  
59 annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as a  
60 new language while such student remains an eligible student, as defined  
61 in section 10-17e of the general statutes; and

62 (15) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to  
63 contact the Department of Education with any questions or concerns  
64 regarding such student's right to receive English learner services or  
65 accommodations available to such student or parent or guardian,  
66 including information regarding any recourse for failure of the board of  
67 education to provide or ensure such services or accommodations.

68 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year  
69 thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a  
70 program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall (1)  
71 provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of  
72 the English learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such  
73 parents and guardians, and (2) make such copies of the English learner  
74 bill of rights available on the Internet web site of such board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
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**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*